

In the claims:

A complete listing of claims follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a towbar comprising, but not necessarily in the order shown:

5 (a) providing a drawbar;

(b) providing a yoke rotatably connected to the drawbar;

(c) providing a lock assembly;

(d) rotating the yoke toward the drawbar; and

10 (e) ~~engaging a~~ engaging the lock assembly, the lock assembly adapted to retain the yoke to the drawbar.

(f) a lock plate coupled to the drawbar, the lock plate having an aperture therein;

(g) a post extending from the yoke; and

(h) a spring attached between the lock plate and the drawbar.

15 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lock assembly is coupled to the drawbar.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1 further comprising:

20 (a) pivoting the lock plate away from the yoke;

(b) aligning the aperture above the post;

(c) pivoting the lock plate toward the yoke; and

(d) passing the lock plate aperture over the post.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising biasing the lock plate towards the yoke

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising providing at least one connecting bar,
wherein the post couples the connecting bar to the yoke.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising inserting the drawbar into a receiver
hitch.

8. (Currently amended) A method of operating a towbar, comprising, but not necessarily in the order shown:

(a) providing a drawbar;

(b) providing a yoke rotatably connected to the drawbar;

5 (c) providing a lock assembly, the lock assembly selectively securing the yoke to the drawbar;

(d) disengaging the lock assembly from the ~~yoker~~ yoke; and

(e) rotating the yoke away from the drawbar.

(f) a lock plate coupled to the drawbar, the lock plate having an aperture therein;

10 (g) a post extending from the yoke; and

(h) a spring attached between the lock plate and the drawbar.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the lock assembly is coupled to the drawbar.

15 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~ claim 8 further comprising:

(a) pivoting the lock plate towards the drawbar; and

20 (b) passing the lock plate aperture over the post.

~~11.~~ 12. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~ claim 8 further comprising biasing the lock plate over the post and towards the yoke.

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13. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~ claim 8, wherein the lock pate comprises an

angled projection, the angled projection allowing a user to more easily manipulate the lock plate.

14. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~, claim 8 further comprising providing at least
5 one connecting bar, wherein the post couples the connecting bar to the yoke.

15. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising removing the drawbar from a receiver
hitch.

16. (Currently amended) A method for operating a tow bar comprising, but not necessarily in the order shown;

- a. providing a yoke means for coupling at least two members;
- 5 b. providing drawbar means for coupling a towed vehicle to a towing vehicle;
- c. providing a lock assembly means for selectively securing the yoke means to the drawbar means;
- d. rotating the yoke means towards the drawbar means; and
- e. engaging the lock assembly means such that the yoke means is secured to the
- 10 drawbar means.
- f. A lock plate means for securing a post means, the lock plate means defining an aperture through which the post means may pass;
- g. post means for engaging the lock plate means, the post means configured to pass through the aperture in the lock plate means;
- 15 h. biasing means fro biasing the lock plate means;

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the lock assembly means is coupled to the drawbar means.

20 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The Method of ~~claim 18~~ claim 16, further comprising;

- a. pivoting the lock plate means away from the yoke means;
- b. aligning the aperture defined by the lock plate means above the post means;

- c. pivoting the lock plate means towards the yoke means; and
- d. passing the aperture defined by the lock plate means over post means.

20. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 19~~ claim 18, further comprising biasing the lock

5 plate means towards the yoke means.

21. (Currently amended) A method of operating a towbar comprising, but not necessarily in the order shown:

- a. providing a drawbar;
- 5 b. providing a post, the post being rotatable with respect to the drawbar;
- c. providing a lock assembly, the lock assembly comprising:
 - i. a lock plate;
 - ii. an aperture defined by the lock plate;
 - iii. a spring attached between the lock plate and the drawbar;
- 10 ~~a.~~ d. securing the post by rotating the post such that the post passes through the aperture defined by the lock plate.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the lock assembly is coupled to the drawbar.

- 15 23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the spring biases the lock plate away from the drawbar.